Countries banning Import of food items due to plague

5109. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries which had banned imports of food items from India during and after the recent outbreak of plague in the country;

(b) the details of the food items banned, country-wise;

(c) the revenue losses suffered by the country as a result thereof; and

(d) the measures contemplated by Government to tackle such contigencies in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P, CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Major countries which imposed restrictions on import of food items from India were the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait.

(b) All food items.

(c) It is difficult to quantity the losses suffered on account ©f the plague. Total exports during October, 1994 estimated at the level of S 2198 million were 27 per cent, higher than that over October, 1993 and higher than those during any preceding month in 1994-95.

(d) Among the measures to tackle such contingencies, mention may be made of issue of guidelines to various exporters, to ensure that there is no contamination of the food products and advice to the exporters to comply with any special request that the importers or authorities in the importing countries may require to ensure that goods reach them in hygienic conditions free from bacterial contamination. A number of measures to contain disinformation were also taken.

Developing appropriate strategy to guard against emerging non-tariff barriers

5110. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export* on world trade have "called for developing an appro priate strategy for India to guard against emerging non-tariff barriers including the unforeseen ones and to drive maximum advantage of the post GATT business opportunities; and

(b) if so, what industry-specific strategy for exports with stress on agro-products, textiles and computer software, the three areas which are likely to derive major gains, India proposes to follow with a view to guard against non-tariff barriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHR P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The formulation of a strategy to counter emerging non-tariff barriers and to derive maximum advantage of the post Uruguay Round opportunities is under constant examination and review by die Government.

As regards the possibility of non-tariff barriers emerging in the sectors referred to, developments in this regard are continuously monitored and issues taken up with the concerned governments through appropriate channels.

Permitting 109 per cent export of coffec by growers

5111. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government nave allowed 100 per cent, export of coffee by the grower*;